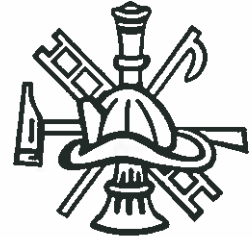


KEITH ROBIE
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Ashland Fire Department

70 Cedar Street
Ashland, MA 01721
508-881-0132

Tel 508-881-0132
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CAPTAIN LYN MORAGHAN
FIRE PREVENTION

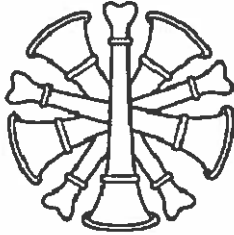
December 4, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to express my concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

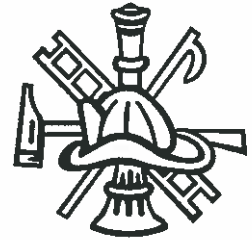
The Town of Ashland has approximately, 17,500 residents with a diverse demographic. Our town maybe small in size but it is large in community cohesiveness. The residents are constantly involved and supportive of local activities and community services. The most widely used media for town events and services, is our cable access television (WACA-TV). WACA-TV has supported the Ashland Fire Department since its incorporation in 1985. The Fire Department relies heavily on their continued support in the department's ongoing mission to educate the citizens in, Fire Prevention and Life Safety. Recently, the Fire Department was looking for support for a much needed new public safety building. WACA-TV was a huge component in collecting, generating and executing vital information out to the public via their cable channels. They focused on the problems with the current fire stations, and the importance to the town and need for a new one. I believe WACA-TV was one of the main reasons the citizens were fully informed at town meeting and showed their support by voting unanimously for a new public safety building.



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Their local presence enables the residents of our town to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. This has always been the intent of the PEG provisions of – the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and to strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators, and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Chief Keith Robie

Captain Lyn Moraghan

Lieutenant David Iarussi

Lieutenant Antony Duca

Lieutenant Matthew Boland

Lieutenant Mark Cafarelli